

CONAN THE
BARBARIAN

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APPROVED
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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

THE MOST SAVAGE HERO OF ALL!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN

ALL
NEW
STORIES

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

BEWARE
THE
WRATH
OF THE
BULL-
GOD!



BONUS! BEFORE THERE WAS CONAN, THERE WAS...

KULL THE CONQUEROR!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN!™

BEWARE THE WRATH OF ANU!

THE SUN AND THE GATE-BARS GO DOWN TOGETHER IN THIS GREAT CORINTHIAN CITY-STATE---BUT, ON OCCASION, A LAST-MINUTE WAYFARER OR TWO CAN CAUSE A HITCH IN THE SCHEDULE---

WELL? SPEAK UP, MAN! WHY SHOULD WE LET YOU ENTER THE CITY?

I HAVE TOLD YOU. I'M A TRAPPER---A TRADER OF THESE ANIMAL FURS.

AND THE GIRL IS... WITH ME.

IF YOU'RE A TRAPPER, I'M THE RED PRIEST'S NEPHEW.

ANOTHER PAIR OF THIEVES, MORE LIKELY!

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BASED ON THE HERO CREATED BY
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6982

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IF WE LET YOU IN, YOU'LL JUST JOIN THE OTHER SCOUNDRELS WHO LIVE AND LOOT ABOUT THE MAZE.

WE KNOW NOTHING OF ANY "MAZE". LET US PASS.

WHO ASKED YOU TO SPEAK, WOMAN?

AYE, WENCH. WE'VE ENOUGH OF YOUR KIND IN THIS CITY, TOO. I...

WATCH YOUR SLIMY TONGUE, DOG...

-- OR I'LL SKEWER YOU WITH YOUR OWN PIKE!

CONAN!

YOU THERE-- GUARDS-- HALT WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND COME WITH ME!

CAPTAIN ARON! BUT, SIR--

WE WERE ABOUT TO TURN THESE TWO UNDESIRABLES OUT OF THE CITY. AND...

YOU MEAN YOU WERE ABOUT TO TRY.

YOU SEE HIS INSOLENCE, SIR? HE CLAIMS TO BE A FUR TRADER, BUT...

BLAST YOU, SCUM-- WOULD YOU LIKE TO POUND A BEAT ON THE ZAMORIAN BORDER?

I'M HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE BOLDEST THIEF IN THE CITY, AND YOU BOTHER ME WITH...

CAPTAIN! I THINK I HEAR THEM COMING!

DO YOU HEAR, SCUM? NOW MOVE!

YOU, BARBARIAN-- PEDDLER YOUR FURS OR WHAT-EVER, BUT KEEP OUT OF OUR WAY.

LOOK! THERE THEY BE!!

THEY'VE SEEN US!

BUT-- HOW DID THEY KNOW WE WOULD BE HERE?

WHAT DOES THAT MATTER NOW, BOY? RUN BACK THE WAY WE CAME.

BUT, DROP THAT JEWEL- CHEST WE SPENT THE DAY STEALING-- AND I'LL TOSS YOU TO THOSE ARMORED WOLVES MYSELF!

THEY'RE CONFUSED,
CAP'N-- THE BIG ONE
HAS PAUSED-- AND
HE'S SILHOUETTED
AGAINST THE MOON.

I'VE GOT A CLEAR
SHOT AT HIS
THIEVING
HEART!

AND
I'VE
GOT A
CLEAR
SHOT,
DOG--

AT YOUR
CRAVEN
JACKAL'S
TAIL!

NO MAN STRIKES ONE
OF THE RED PRIEST'S
OWN ARCHERS-- AND,
LIVES!

HELP ME, ALL
OF YOU! HE FIGHTS
LIKE TEN CIVILIZED
MEN.

HO, LITTLE ONE-- THERE'S
RARE GOOD SPORT FOR
THE WATCHING, DOWN
THERE.

THE CITY'S FINEST
HAVE TURNED ON THE
SAVAGE WHO TRIED
TO HELP US.

THEN
LET
HIM HELP
US-- BY HIS
DEATH.
COME ON!
THIS IS OUR
CHANCE TO
ESCAPE!

HOLD HIM STILL, FOOLS!
THIS IS ONE TASK I MY-
SELF WILL PERFORM
WITH RELISH!

OH, GODS IN
THE HEAVENS...

STOP
THEM!
STOP
THEM!

I'M NO
BRITTLE
BRASS
GOD,
WENCH--

BUT WILL
THIS
BRICK
HELP?

ARR

NOR DOES THE MIGHTY-THEWED
CIMMERIAN NEED MUCH ENCOURAGE-
MENT TO ADD TO THE CHAOS...

QUICKLY, CONAN--
WHILE YOU'RE FREE--
LET'S FLEE THIS
CITY...

WE'VE STARVED
ON THE ROAD OF
KINGS LONG
ENOUGH.

THEY'LL
CARRY ME
OUT OF THIS
CITY ON A
SHIELD--
OR NOT AT
ALL.

I LIKE YOUR
ATTITUDE,
MY FRIEND.

NO,
JENNA--

COME
WITH
US.

BUT--
THE
GIRL...

TELL HER
TO MEET US
BEHIND
THE TEMPLE
OF ANU.

NOW
HURRY
--OR
STAY
HERE
AND FEND
FOR YOUR-
SELF.

--AND SO
SHALL WE.

YOU SCALE WALLS
LIKE A MONKEY,
BARBARIAN.

NOT SO
FAST, YOU
TWO. I'M THE
ONE WHO HAS
TO CARRY THE
BOOTY.

DOWN
HERE...
QUICKLY!

IN MY
HOMELAND,
YOU SCALE THEM
SWIFTLY...

THIS
WAY!

THE
GUARDSMEN
WILL NOT
DARE FOLLOW
US ONCE WE'VE
CLIMBED
THESE STEPS.

--OR YOU
NEVER
LIVE TO
REACH THE
TOP.



EASY, IGGON! WE ARE SAFE NOW.

IN CIMMERIA, WE'D THROW SUCH A WHIMPERER TO THE WOLVES, IF THEY'D HAVE HIM.

CIMMERIA? I ONCE KNEW A YOUTH FROM...

HOLY MITRA, CAN IT BE? DON'T YOU KNOW ME, LAD?

SHOULD I? WHAT KIND OF GAME..?

YES, BY CROM-- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU IN THE DARK. YOU'RE--- THE GUNDERMAN.

AYE-- BUT I THOUGHT YOU DIED AT LOST LANJAU.*

I HOPE YOUR SHARE OF OUR LOOTING LASTED LONGER THAN MINE.

LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO RETURN HERE-- AND FIND MY GIRL ALREADY WED.

SO I STAYED DRUNK FOR A MONTH--- AND THAT FINISHED THE GOLD.

BUT YOU, BARBARIAN-- WHAT HAPPENED TO--?

LOOK!

* SEE ISSUE #8. -- STAN.

GENTLY, MY CHILD. THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR FEAR.

I AM BUT YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT-- A PRIEST OF ANU-- WHOM THE GUNDERMAN KNOWS WELL.

AND WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME THIS NIGHT, MY FRIEND?

I SEE. WOULD ALL OF YOU STEP THIS WAY, PLEASE?

CAN YOU WALK ALONE, IGGON?

THIS IS OUR HOLY OF HOLIES!

AND THIS-- OUR SILVER SPIRAL, WHICH LEADS UPWARD TO THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES.

GUNDERMAN, YOU ARE A FOOL TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR CASKS OF GOLD.

LOOT THIS PLACE, INSTEAD-- AND DIE IN A RICH MAN'S BED.

NOTHING, PRIEST. WE DROPPED IT ALL MAKING OUR ESCAPE.

YES-- BUT IF HE CALLS ME CHILD AGAIN--





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

A GUNDERMAN DESERTER
FROM THE MERCENARIES...
AND A BARBARIC
CIMMERIAN. WE'LL
MAKE THE MOST
DARING TEAM OF
THIEVES THIS CITY
HAS EVER...

IGON
IS TAKING
ME FOR A FLAGON
OF WINE, CONAN.
ARE YOU--?

BURGUN AND I
HAVE THINGS TO
TALK ABOUT, GIRL.
I'LL SEE YOU
LATER.

PERHAPS YOU WILL...
AND PERHAPS YOU WON'T!

YES...
JENNA...

THE NEXT FEW
NIGHTS ARE LONG
AND DARK...
AND EVENTFUL
ONES FOR BURGUN
AND HIS NEWFOUND
PARTNER-IN-
PLUNDER....

--AS A DIS-
PROPORTIONATE
SHARE OF THE
CITY'S WEALTH
FINDS ITS WAY
INTO THE MURKY
MAZE...

--ALWAYS JUST
BEFORE A
GRIM-FACED
CAPTAIN ARON
ARRIVES UPON
THE SCENE.

HAH! OUR SUCCESS
MAKES ME AMBITIOUS
FOR US BOTH, CONAN.

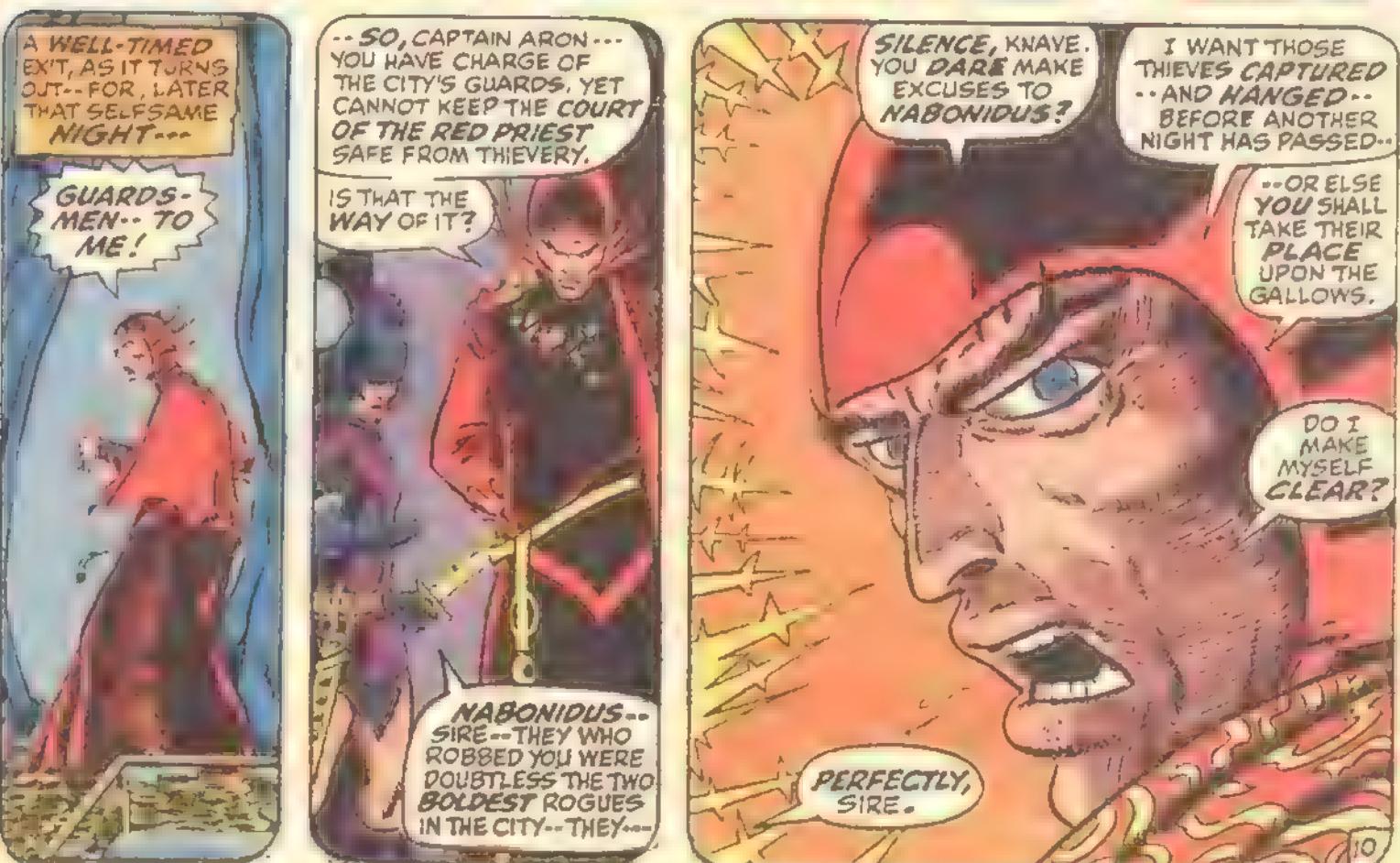
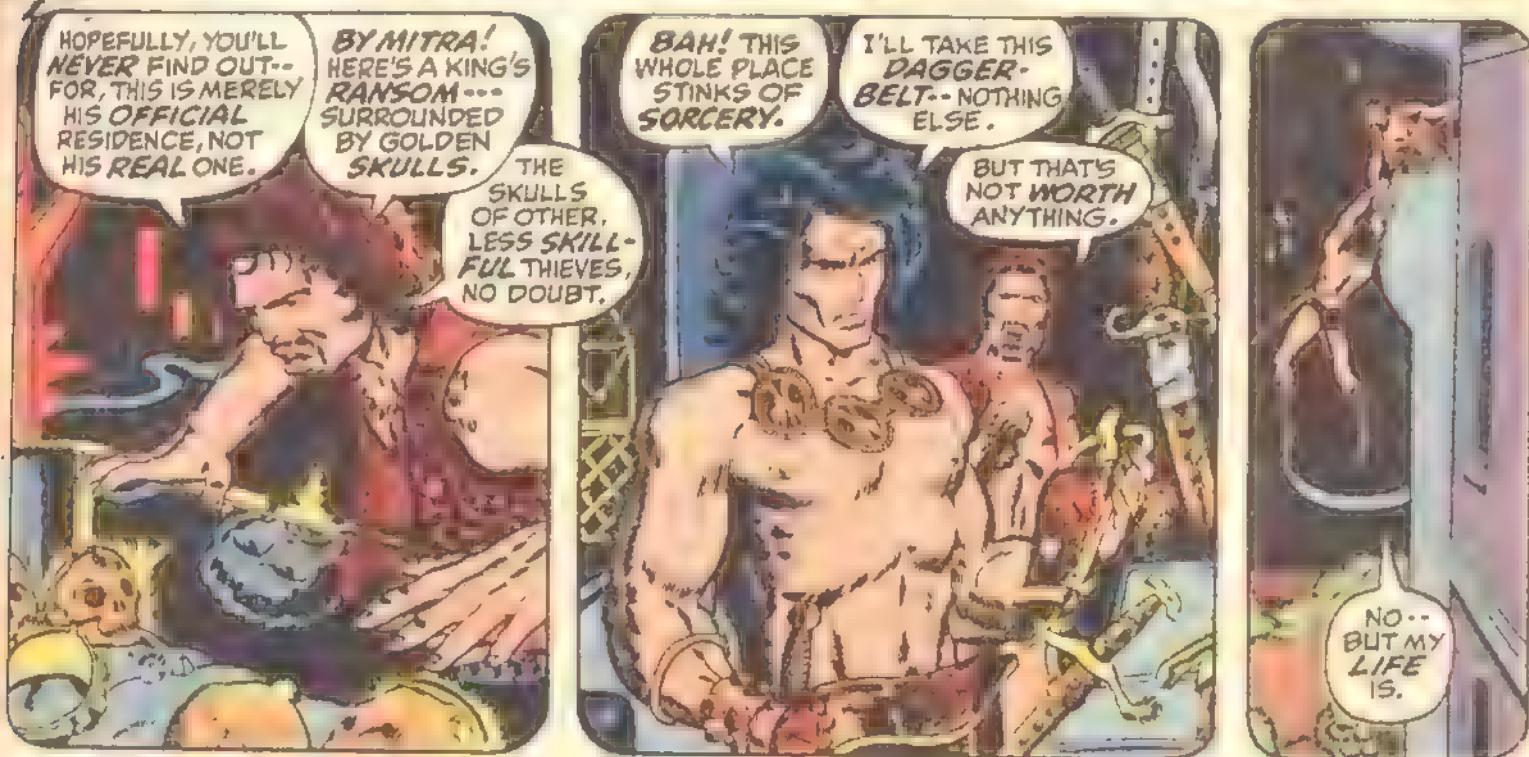
WHAT SAY WE
PULL OFF A REAL
THEFT TOMORROW
NIGHT.. ONE THAT WILL
MAKE THE WHOLE CITY
SIT UP AND TAKE
NOTICE?

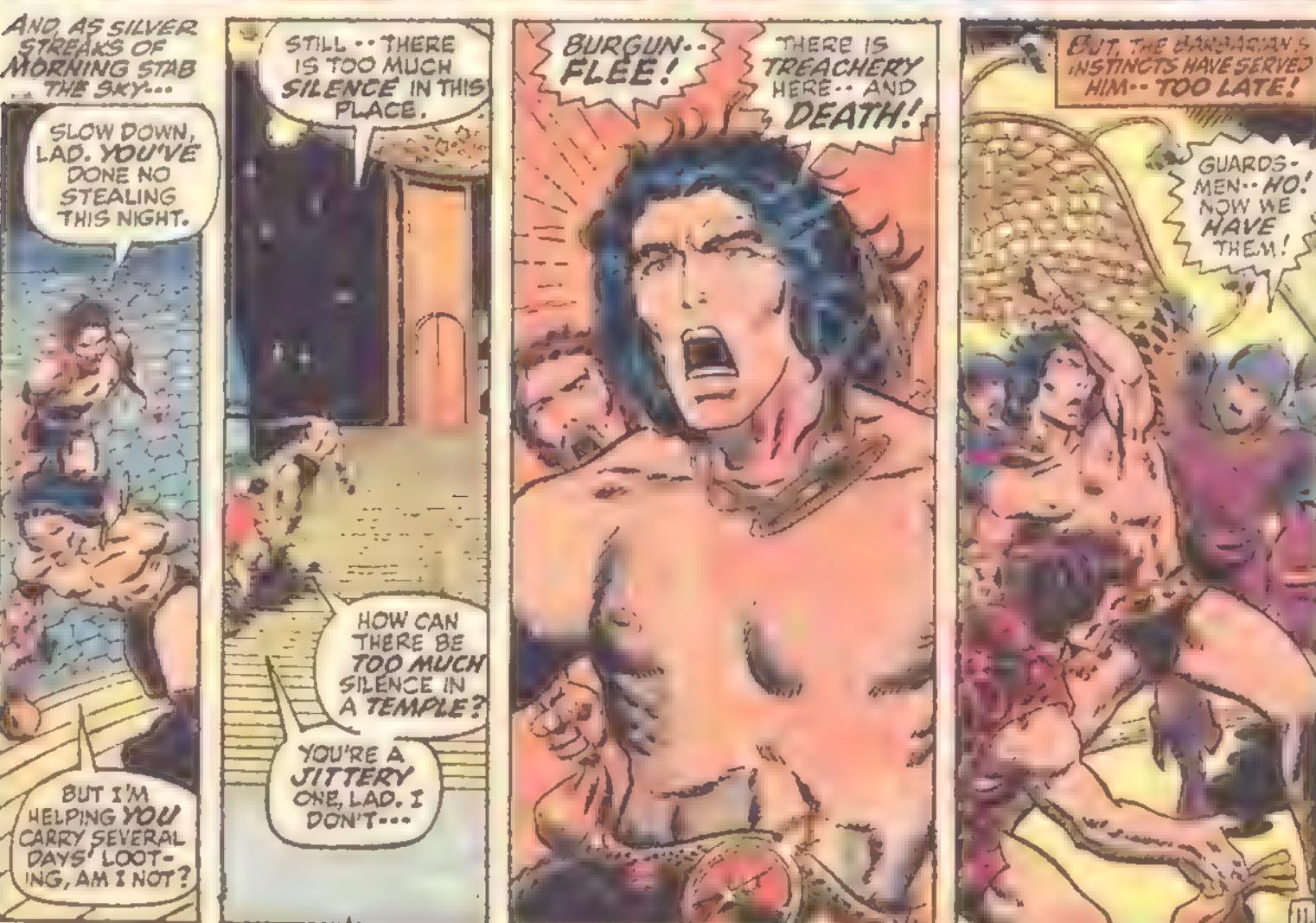
YOU NAME
THE PLACE--
I'LL HELP YOU
ROB IT.

GLAD
TO HEAR YOU
SAY THAT,
LAD...

--SINCE
OUR NEXT
VICTIM WILL
BE--THE RED
PRIEST
HIMSELF!









THE DAY DAWNS DARK AND DISMAL, AS THE CIMMERIAN RETURNS TO THE STENCH-FILLED MAZE TAVERN CALLED THE RAT'S DEN... WHERE, IN DUE COURSE...

BACK FROM YOUR NIGHT'S WORK, CONAN? BUT-- WHAT'S WRONG?

WHERE'S THE GREAT BURGUN?

TAKEN IN AMBUSH-- BY THE CITY GUARD!

OH-- THAT'S AWFUL. HE BROUGHT ME SUCH PRETTY THINGS.

I'LL BRING YOU PRETTIER. HAH! AND HE WAS GOING TO TEACH US ALL THIEVING.

WELL, NOW HE CAN TRY STEALING HIS WAY OUT OF JAIL.

SHUT UP.

WHY? IT'LL BE A GREAT LAUGH, WHEN HE TRIES TO PICK THE HANG-MAN'S POCK...

I SAID-- SHUT UP!

HOW DARE YOU STRIKE HIM? HE'S DELICATE... SENSITIVE-- NOT LIKE YOU.

IF YOU'RE SO STRONG, WHY DON'T YOU GO RESCUE BURGUN?

DURING THAT TIME, I MUST THINK... PLAN.

I SHALL-- BUT THEY ALWAYS WAIT THREE DAYS BEFORE EXECUTING THIEVES.

THEN, FEELING MORE ALONE THAN HE HAS FELT SINCE HE LEFT THE HILLS OF CIMMERIA, CONAN WANDERS INTO CROOKED, RAIN-SWEPT STREETS...

CONAN! CONAN!

LITTLE GORDA! I SENT YOU TO SPY ON THE GATES OF THE PALACE PRISON.

WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED... UNLESS YOU HAVE NEWS?

I-- DO, CONAN. THEY'RE NOT WAITING THREE DAYS LIKE ALWAYS.

THEY'RE ANGAGING BURGUN-- RIGHT NOW!

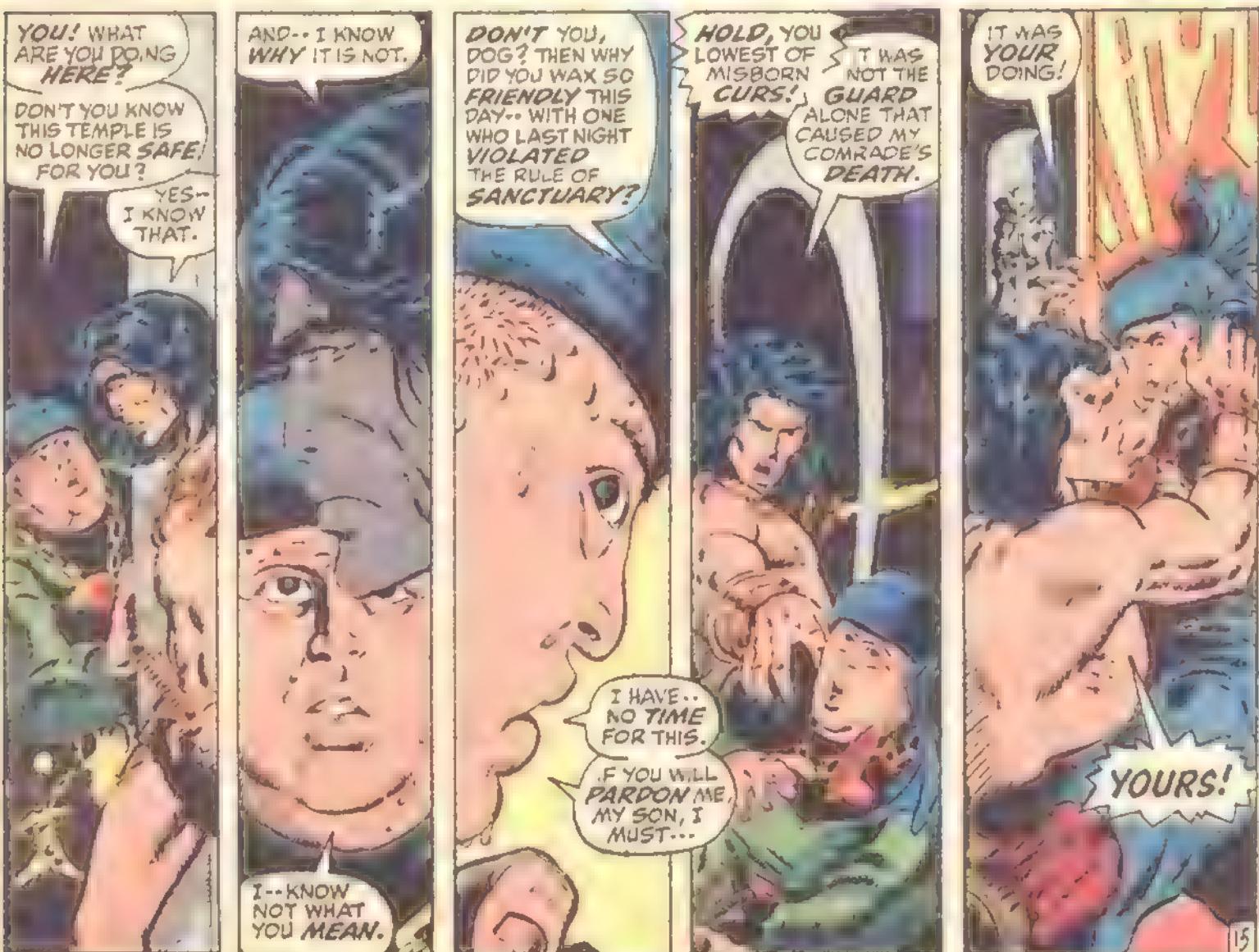
CROM'S DEVILS!

GONE NOW ALL THOUGHT OF PLANS-- ELABORATE SCHEMES OF DERIVING DO--

NOTHING NOW BUT THE UNFAMILIAR TASTE OF FEAR, A BITTER DRYNESS IN THE MOUTH...

NOTHING, SAVE THE AWARENESS THAT HE HAS... FAILED.





FLASHER
FINGERS
STAB FIT-
FULLY BACK-
WARD...

THEN...

YOU ODIOUS
HEATHEN!

YOU DARE
LAY HANDS
ON ME?!

PURSUE
ME-- AND
YOU'LL PAY
FOR YOUR
PERFIDY.

PROVERS HAVE EVER BEEN A
STRANGER TO THIS FULL-FED
PREGST...

THEN, PRAYERS GIVE
WAY TO AN OMINOUS
INCANTATION ... A
BRIEF, OBSCENE
RITUAL MURMURED
TWICE IN RECENT
DAYS....

-- AND THIS
TIME MOST
DESPERATELY...

BUT THE NOUGHTS THEM NOW,
AS HE STRIDES CLUMSLY
THRU Labyrinthine
CORRIDORS...

FOR HARD UPON
A SHEEL'S COMES
MELT-LAGED
DEATH!

YET SUDDENLY
FLEETINGLY--
AS INSANE
CACKLING
FEST THE FIVERY
CHAMBER...

YOU FOLLOWED
ME-- TO YOUR
DOOM.

LOOK NOW--
UPON THE BULL
OF HEAVEN--
CONJURED UP TO
PROTECT ANU'S
FAITHFUL SERVANT
FROM HARM!

TREMBLE,
BARBARIAN!
WHY DON'T YOU
TREMBLE???

YOU MUST
THINK ALL
MEN ARE
FOOLS...

DON'T YOU THINK
I WATCHED YOU
BEFORE--FINGER-
ING THAT TRINKET
ABOUT YOUR FAT
NECK?

I THINK YOU
HAVE NO MORE
POWER OVER
THAT DEVIL-
SPAWN THAN
I DO...

...WHEN YOU'RE
NOT WEARING--
THIS!

M-MY
AMULET!
DURING OUR
STRUGGLES
--YOU TOOK--
MY AMULET.

BUT--THAT
IS MY
SHIELD..
MY PRO-
TECTION.

IF--IF I
DO NOT
WEAR IT--
THE BULL
OF ANU
WILL...



HALT, PRIEST!
WHERE ARE YOU
OFF TO?

YOUR NUMBLED
SPELL BROUGHT
THAT FIEND DOWN
FROM THE SKY.

NOW, SAY THE
WORDS THAT
WILL SEND HIM
BACK AGAIN!

THE QUAKING PRIEST HAS MORE TO SAY-- BUT WORDS ARE LOST,
AMID A THUNDERING BELLOW-- THE SHUDDERING SNEEZE OF
COLOSSAL TALONS...

I-- I
CANNOT--!

--A GREAT,
HAMMERING
FIST THAT
SHATTERS
STONE LIKE
CHAFF!

THEN, EVEN AS ECHOES DIE
'MIDST SMOKE AND
RUBBLE--

HAH! NOW
HEAR MY WORDS,
YOU STUPID
SAVAGE!

ONCE THE
BULL OF ANU
HAS ASSUMED
FLESHLY FORM,
HE CANNOT
RETURN TO THE
HEAVENS-- TILL
HE HAS TASTED
ONE HUMAN
DEATH...

AND
THIS NIGHT
OF NIGHTS, IT
SHALL BE...

YOURS!

FEAR KRAK'S COVETOUS FRAME, AS THAT
GAPING MAN COMES CLOSER--CLOSER!
YET, THERE WAS SOMETHING THE FAT
PRIEST SAID...

--AND, THAT WHICH
HAS FLESH...

SOMETHING
ABOUT...
"FLESHLY
FORM"...

--CAN BE
PIERCED!

THE SKY-THING'S
ROAR IS EERILY
DIFFERENT NOW,
AS THE CIMMERIAN
DROPS HEAVILY
TO EARTH...

THERE IS PAIN MINGLED WITH
THAT GRIM, UNEARTHLY RAGE...
AND NOT MERELY THAT PAIN
INFILCTED BY A HARD-THRUST-
ING SWORD, BARBARIAN
SINEWS...

...BUT THE AWESOME AGONY OF
ONE WHOSE BIRTHPLACE WAS A
STAR... ONE WHO HAS BEEN UNTIME-
LY RIPPED FROM OUT THE FIRMAMENT...



--TO WHICH HE CAN ONLY RETURN--ADRIFT ON A
RIVER OF BLOOD!

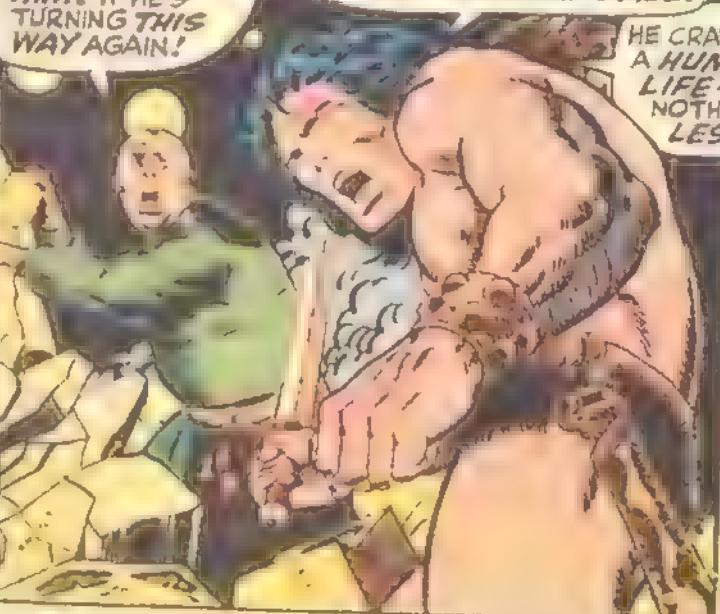
STOP HIM! STOP
HIM! H-HE'S
TURNING THIS
WAY AGAIN!

MY BLADE IS A BEE-STING
TO HIM--AND THAT IS ALL!

WELL, IF HAVE
ONE HE MUST...

HE CRAVES
A HUMAN
LIFE...
NOTHING
LESS.

...IT
WON'T
BE
MINE!
NNO.



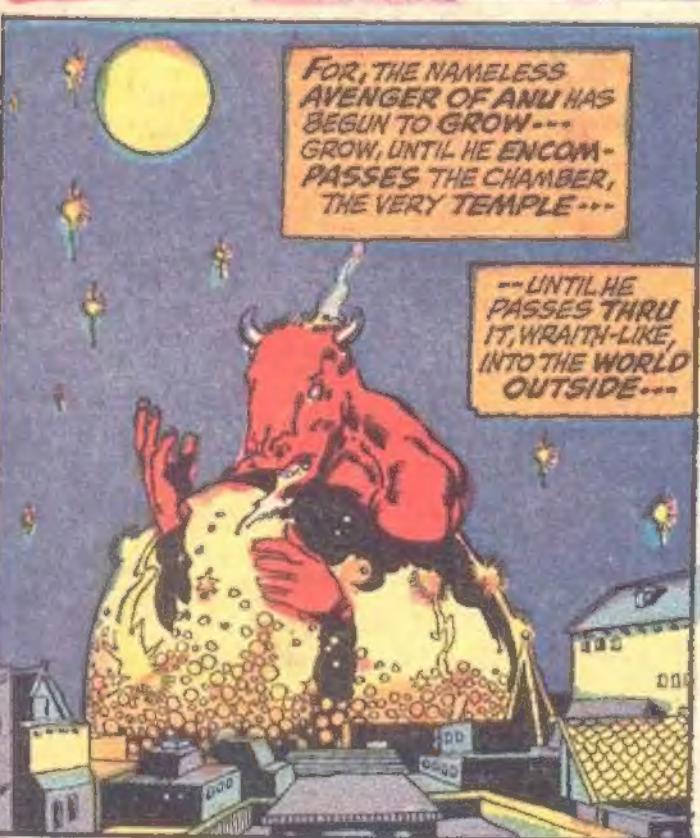




FOR ONE SPINE-SHIVERING MOMENT, DEMON AND BARBARIAN GAZE AT EACH OTHER -- THE HOT BREATH OF DOOM BATHES CONAN'S TENSED FORM --



THEN, HIS EYES WIDEN -- THOSE EYES THAT HAVE BEHELD A THOUSAND HORRORS, YET NONE MORE FRIGHTFUL THAN THIS --



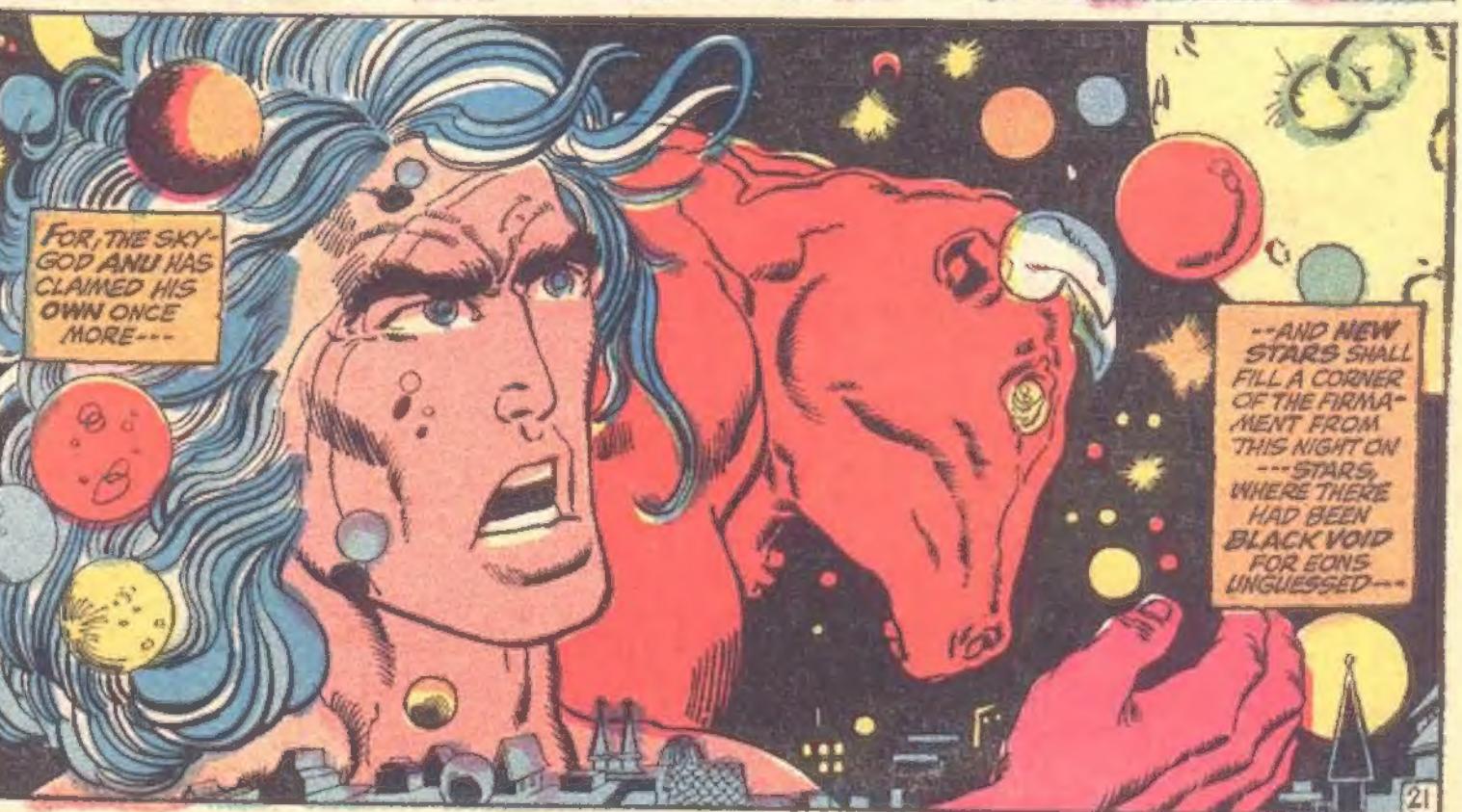
FOR, THE NAMELESS AVENGER OF ANU HAS BEGIN TO GROW -- GROW, UNTIL HE ENCOMPASSES THE CHAMBER, THE VERY TEMPLE --

-- UNTIL HE PASSES THRU IT, WRAITH-LIKE, INTO THE WORLD OUTSIDE --



-- AYE, UNTIL HIS GREAT ARMS CLAW HEAVENWARD, AS HE UTTERS ONE FINAL, SOUL-SHATTERING ROAR --

-- THEN IS GONE, AS IF HE NEVER WERE!



FOR, THE SKY-GOD ANU HAS CLAIMED HIS OWN ONCE MORE --

-- AND NEW STARS SHALL FILL A CORNER OF THE FIRMAMENT FROM THIS NIGHT ON -- STARS, WHERE THERE HAD BEEN BLACK VOID FOR EONS UNGUESSED --



HIS LAST
SUCH ACT, AS
IT HAPPENS!



Final